

REMARKS

By the present amendment claims 1-3, 6-8, and 29-31 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4, 5, 11-13, and 16-19 have been amended. Claims 32-37 have been newly added.

Claims 4, 5, 9-28, and 32-37 are thus pending in the application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,215,525 to Fujino. Claims 1, 6, and 29 have been cancelled

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 30, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujino in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,496,608 to Chui. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 30, and 31 have been cancelled.

Claims 4, 5, and 9-28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4, 5, 11-13, and 17-19 have been rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion


In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Demetra R. Smith-Stewart (Reg. No. 47,354), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.


Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and § 1.136(a), Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of one (1) month in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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